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PROVISIONAL SPECIFICATION

Invention title:

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO EYEWEAR ATTACHMENTS

The invention is described in the following statement:

IMPROVEMENTS IN OR RELATING TO PROTECTIVE EYEWEAR

The present invention relates to eyewear. More particularly the present invention relates to a modular eyewear system that can be flexibly adapted for one or more functions including protection against industrial hazards and solar radiation, eyesight correction, and

5 magnification. The modular eyewear system can be used in a variety of environments and for a variety of purposes including work, leisure and sport.

Background of the invention

In this specification, where a document, act or item of knowledge is referred to or discussed, this reference or discussion is not an admission that the document, act or item of 10 knowledge or any combination thereof was at the priority date: publicly available, known to the public, part of common general knowledge or known to be relevant to an attempt to solve any problem with to which this specification is concerned.

Myriad types of eyewear have been used through the ages to improve eyesight or protect 15 the eyes. For example, prescription lenses in the form of contact lenses or glasses are used to correct sight.

In industrial environments, eye protection is worn to protect the eyes from hazards including flying debris, air or gas jets, grit, sparks, acid splatters and strong energy sources such as welding arcs, lasers, and ultraviolet light. In medical environments, medical 20 professionals such as surgeons and dentists wear protective eyewear to provide protection against entry into the eye of bodily fluids or other potentially infectious or damaging substances from a patient. Surgeons and dentists may also need to use magnification devices or other optical instruments whilst carrying out procedures on patients. Many sporting or leisure pursuits require eye protection. For example scuba divers require face masks to be able to see underwater, whilst skiers require tinted, wrap around glasses or 25 goggles to protect their eyes from wind, particles of snow and UV radiation.

Conventional eyewear worn on the face is typically held in place by a nose piece and a pair of arms for locating the eyewear in known manner on the ears of the wearer.

While eyewear may have multiple functions, it is usually made for a specific purpose. For example, a scuba diver's face mask or skier's goggles may include prescription lenses, but 30 can be used for no other purpose than scuba diving or skiing respectively.

Similarly, eyewear for use in industrial environments usually has no application outside the industrial environment.

This limited functionality of eyewear can be particularly inconvenient in certain applications. For example, a fly fisherman may stand at a river from dawn to dusk, in a

5 wide range of light conditions, requiring several changes of eyewear to different polarizing lenses so that the fish may be seen in different light levels. Given the relatively high cost of a single pair of spectacles, it is not viable for a fisherman to have multiple pairs, each having a different set of polarizing lenses.

Apart from specialist applications such as fly fishing, many people wear spectacles and
10 most have at least two pairs – a prescription pair and prescription sunglasses. They may also have a scuba diving mask with prescription lenses and/or skiing goggles with prescription sunglass lenses.

There is therefore a need for a modular eyewear system that allows the user to readily change eyewear elements, or the combination of eyewear elements according to their
15 various activities and interests, thus dispensing with the need and expense of having multiple pairs of spectacles and other visual aids.

Summary of the invention

The present invention provides a modular eyewear system including magnetic mounting means for releasable magnetic mounting of one or more eyewear elements.

20 Magnetic mounting means according to the invention may take any suitable form. Typically the magnetic mounting means comprises small magnets, such as rare earth magnets. In a preferred embodiment, each of the eyewear elements includes a magnet that can be attracted to, and held firmly by the magnet of another eyewear element, or a magnet located within a protective eyeshield, eyewear frame, or protective headgear.

25 Existing eyeshields, eyewear frames or protective headgear can be modified to include a magnet of the mounting means. For example the magnet may form part of the frame of prescription spectacles comprising a pair of lens surrounds connected to one another via a brow rail. The brow rail is preferably resiliently deformable, whereby demounting is facilitated by flexing the frames slightly outwardly to create minor deformation of the
30 brow rail which helps to overcome the magnetic attraction as eyewear elements are separated from one another or from the mounting means.

In a preferred embodiment a first eyewear element can be attached to a magnet forming part of a spectacle frame; a magnet of a second eyewear element may be attached to the magnet of the first eyewear element. Subsequent eyewear elements may be similarly attached.

- 5 Thus, the present invention provides a convenient, modular system. For example, whilst at home a wearer may have a bi-focal prescription lens element solus; when out in the garden, they may add a UV filter/polarizing element; at work, the wearer may replace the UV filter/polarizing element with an protective visor element to protect them from chemical splashes.
- 10 In a preferred embodiment the magnet may be in the form of a projection, which can be received in a recess in an optical element, or the magnet may be recessed to receive a projection from an optical element.

In one embodiment, the magnetic mounting means comprises a magnetic projection carried by an outer marginal edge of an extended frame of prescription spectacles, the magnetic projection in use extending at least partly through an aperture in the lens of a protective eyeshield element. The eyeshield element may further comprises a magnetic disc positioned on an opposite side of the eyeshield element in the region of the aperture. In this way the user has a prescription lens and an eyeshield located in front of their eyes.

- 15

The magnetic mounting means may additionally include a mechanical mounting feature such as a projection in the form of a locating pin that can be received in a recess in an optical component, or a recess that can receive a projection from an optical component, or a combination thereof. This mechanical mounting feature can, for example prevent rotation of the optical component relative to the mounting means or bear part of any load imparted upon the system. The mechanical mounting feature may be moveable within the recess such that an eyewear element can in use be located in different positions relative to the spectacle frame, or other eyewear elements.

- 20
- 25

According to another aspect of the present invention, there is provided a modular eyewear system including a magnetic mounting means for releasable magnetic mounting of one or more eyewear elements, and a nose support for supporting the protective eyewear on the nose of a wearer, which nose support can be releasably mounted on the magnetic mounting means.

- 30

The nose support according to the present invention may comprise nose pads such as are known in the art. The nose pads may project downwardly from a connecting web or bridge piece. The nose piece may be mounted on an extended bridge piece. When an eyewear element is relatively heavy, such as an optical instrument, the nose pads are preferably of relatively large area so as to reduce the pressure transmitted to the nose of the wearer by the nose pads. The nose piece may be modified so as to be capable of being mounted on the nose portion of a respirator such as a filter-type respirator rather than directly on the wearer's nose.

In a preferred embodiment, the nose support is adjustable in the vertical direction (the "vertical" direction referring to the orientation of the protective eyewear when the wearer is standing upright and looking straight ahead). In a preferred embodiment the bridge piece has one or more recesses in which can be located one or more correspondingly shaped pin on an eyewear element, protective eyeshield, eyewear frame, or protective headgear. Where multiple recesses are located vertically along the bridge piece, the position of the pin(s) can be changed to adjust the location of the nose piece in the vertical direction. Alternatively the bridge piece may include a single recess such as a slot so that the position of the pin can be changed by sliding along the slot.

For example, if the nose pad is generally V-shaped, this adjustability allows the eyewear to be capable of fitting persons of different nose width of the nose at the point between the eyes, as this dimension differs considerably from person to person.

This adjustability is also useful for raising or lowering an eyewear element comprising a multifocal lens. In some sports such as shooting, this adjustability is invaluable to ensuring that the shooter is looking through the center of the correct focal length lens at the time of sighting and shooting a target.

In a preferred embodiment, some eyewear elements such as ophthalmoscopes, and optical loupes adapted for use with the present invention, are adjustable in the vertical direction. In a preferred embodiment such optical elements include a bridge piece which has one or more recesses in which can be located one or more correspondingly shaped pins on an eyewear element, protective eyeshield, eyewear frame, or protective headgear. Where multiple recesses are located vertically along the bridge piece, the position of the pin(s) can be changed to adjust the location of the nose piece in the vertical direction, thus ensuring that the ophthalmoscope or loupe or other device is correctly positioned relative to the user's

eye. Alternatively the recess may comprise a single slot along which the pin(s) may be moved.

In addition to eyewear elements, the modular eyewear system of the present invention may provide for mounting of other elements. For example a nose and/or mouth shield may be

5 magnetically or mechanically mounted to the spectacle frame of eyewear element.

A nose or mouth shield could be used to protect a dental or medical patient from the breath of the dentist or doctor impinging directly upon them. Similarly a nose or mouth shield could protect an industrial worker from flashback from a reaction, or protect a surgeon from being splashed or sprayed by blood. Typically a suitable nose and/or mouth shield

10 could be manufactured of perspex, polycarbonate or other clear material. The nose and/or mouth shield could be adjustable in the vertical direction. This adjustability allows the nose and/or mouth shield to be capable of fitting persons of different facial dimensions. For example the nose and/or mouth shield may include pin(s) and recess(es) as described with reference to the adjustability of the nose pad or other optical elements.

15 According to a further embodiment, the present invention also includes two arms for retaining the protective eyewear in a substantially fixed position relative to the wearer's head, each arm having a contact portion for contacting the wearer's head towards the rear of the wearer's head, the contact portions being biased towards each other if displaced away from each other from an undisplaced configuration.

20 Personnel in industrial environments must often wear additional protective equipment such as respirators, ear protection devices, or communication devices the operation of which may be compromised by the location of the arms of eyewear of the prior art. Any seal surrounding the ear may be broken by the arms passing from the inside to the outside of the seal. Additionally, the combination of protective items is often highly uncomfortable
25 for the wearer. Uncomfortable eyewear will often be discarded by workers, defeating the purpose of issuing them with safety equipment.

One of the other problems associated with eyewear of the prior art, is that it is not designed for use in conjunction with heavy optical instruments such as ophthalmoscopes and magnifying loupes. Heavy optical instruments mounted on frames of the form of prior art,
30 transmitted pressure through the arms of the frames to the unpadded region behind the

wearer's ears (the mastoid process). Thus the eyewear becomes uncomfortable and, the frames tend to slip down the wearer's nose to an optically unsuitable position.

Accordingly, the arms of the present invention are biased towards one another and are wrapped around so as to exert a pressure on the rear wearer's head. This causes the 5 eyewear to be urged towards the wearer's face. This is to be contrasted with prior art spectacle frames in which the frames tend to fall away from the wearer's face.

Furthermore, use of eyewear according to the present invention having a nose support and arms with contact portions as aforesaid may carry a relatively heavy optical instrument with relatively little discomfort and without the eyewear slipping down the nose allowing 10 use of the optical instrument with greater stability and comfort.

A contact portion according to the present invention may constitute a continuation of the arm with which it is associated. The contact portion may be a spatula. It may be paddle-shaped. Preferably, the contact portion has an elongated surface for contacting the wearer's head. Preferably the contact portion is flat in the vertical direction and curved to 15 approximate the shape of a wearer's head in the horizontal direction; these directions referring to the orientation that the protective eyewear or the platform would assume when worn by a wearer standing upright and looking straight ahead. Preferably, the contact portion has an area of at least 200 mm² and more preferably it has an area of at least 400 mm².

20 Protective eyewear is apt to become fogged. Anti-fogging coatings are known in the prior art, but are a poor solution to the problem since such coatings are quite vulnerable to degradation, rendering them ineffective within a short time. Protective eyewear according to the present invention may include air circulation means for increasing air circulation to the rear of the protective eyewear to prevent fogging. Air circulation means according to 25 the present invention may include minus projection, whereby eyewear elements are located significantly in front of the nose support to increase the volume of air between the wearer's face and the eyewear element. Air circulation means may include one or more apertures or slots in the eyewear elements to facilitate air flow to the rear of the eyewear element.

The eyewear element may comprise lenses of any convenient material such as glass or plastic or an optical instrument such as an ophthalmoscope or loupe or a light. Where the eyewear element includes lenses, there may be a separate lens for each eye, which may be integrally joined.

- 5 The present invention may be used in conjunction with a protective eyeshield, or may use eyewear elements that are protective. Where an eyeshield or eyewear element is protective, to maximize the protection afforded they should fit closely to the wearer's face. They may take any suitable form such as a visor or safety goggles or a wrap around style and side skirts may additionally be provided to provide improved protection against dust, grit, liquids, metal shavings and other foreign matter entering the eye from the side.
- 10 The protective eyeshield or protective eyewear element is preferably formed from clear plastics material, although protective eyewear elements of other materials, including tinted shields, polychromatic shields and/or shields made from other materials, are also envisaged within the scope of the present invention. They may include a coating acting as a laser filter. It may be made of a material that acts as a laser filter.

The present invention also provides protective headwear including the eyewear system of the present invention. In a particularly preferred embodiment the headwear comprises a safety helmet including a magnetic mounting means to which eyewear elements may be releasably magnetically mounted. Eyewear according to this embodiment of the invention

- 20 has no arms or ear pieces to interfere with the operation of ear protection or communication devices covering the ears of a wearer.

The protective headwear may further include a support in the form of a tab. The tab may be configured to extend downwardly from a forward portion of the headwear, and most preferably extends downwardly from a region slightly forward of the region of the wearer's eyes. It is preferred that the support is arranged so as not to obstruct to any significant degree a wearer's straight ahead line of vision. In one embodiment the support lies in a substantially vertical plane transverse to the vertical center line of the wearer's face, the plane being oriented approximately transverse to the wearer's line of sight when looking directly ahead, i.e. approximately parallel to the wearer's forehead. In one particularly preferred embodiment the support comprises a substantially rectangular portion of transparent plastic extending downwardly from a region to the rear of the peak of the headwear in the aforementioned plane.

The support may be secured to the headwear in any suitable manner such as screws, rivets, or by friction or interference fit.

Description of the drawings

To further assist in the understanding of the present invention, particularly preferred 5 embodiments of the invention will now be described in relation to the accompanying drawings.

In the drawings, in which like features are indicated by common numerals:

Figure 1 is a perspective view of eyewear according to one embodiment of the present invention;

10 Figure 2 is a detailed view of the magnetic mounting arrangement for a component in accordance with the embodiment of Figure 1;

Figure 3 is a detailed cross-sectional view along the line 3-3 of Figure 2;

Figure 4 is a perspective view of the eyewear of Figure 1 showing an alternative magnetic mounting arrangement for a component according to the invention;

15 Figure 5 is a detailed view of an alternative magnetic mounting arrangement in accordance with Figure 4;

Figure 6 is a detailed cross-sectional view along the line 6-6 of Figure 5;

Figure 7 is a perspective view of an alternative embodiment of the invention applied to protective headwear;

20 Figure 8 is a perspective view of eyewear according to a further embodiment of the present invention;

Figure 9 is a plan view of the eyewear of Figure 8;

Figure 10 is a perspective view of a form of magnetic mounting means according to the present invention;

25 Figure 11 is a perspective view of part of the eyewear of Figure 8; and

Figure 12 is a schematic plan view of the manner in which eyewear of Figure 8 is to be worn.

Figure 13 is an exploded, perspective view of one embodiment of protective eyewear according to the present invention.

Figure 14 is a side view of the protective eyewear of Figure 13.

5 Figure 15 is an exploded, perspective view of one embodiment of protective eyewear according to the present invention in combination with a specialist pair of magnifying lenses.

Figure 16 is a side view of the protective eyewear and specialist magnifying lenses of Figure 15.

10 Figure 17 is an exploded, perspective view of one embodiment of eyewear according to the present invention comprising multiple eyewear elements.

Figure 18 is an exploded side view of the eyewear of Figure 17.

Figure 19 is a view of one embodiment of a welding shield adapted for use with the present invention.

15 Figure 20 is a view of two different embodiments of the magnetic mounting means according to the present invention.

Turning to the drawings, Figure 1 shows generally protective eyewear 10 in the form of safety goggles including a protective eyeshield 11 having lens means 15 and arms 16, 17 to attach to the ears of a wearer in a manner known in the art. Protective eyewear 10 further includes magnetic mounting means 12, 13 in the form of a means for releasable magnetic 20 mounting of an eyewear element to the eyeshield 11. In the embodiment shown in Figure 1, the eyewear element is in the form of eyewear element 14 magnetically mountable to the lens means 15 of eyeshield 11.

25 Eyeshield 11 is intended to wrap around the head of a wearer to provide protection against foreign bodies entering the eye from either side of the wearer or from the top, and includes side skirts 18, 19 and an extended top rail 20.

30 Eyewear element 14 includes lens surrounds 21, 22 and a hinged brow rail 24. Lens surrounds 21, 22 include frame extensions 23 (only one shown in the drawings) at proposed marginal edges of lens surrounds 21, 22. In the embodiment shown in Figure 2, frame extension 23 comprises an arm terminating in a substantially circular recess in which is held a magnetic mounting member 12a which passes through an aperture 15a in the lens

means of eyeshield 15. On an opposed side of eyeshield 15a is disposed a magnetic disc 12b of opposed polarity to the polarity of magnetic mounting member 12a. When the magnetic mounting member 12a is passed through aperture 15a, the magnetic attraction of magnetic members 12a and 12b as a consequence of their opposed polarity results in the

5 prescription lenses 14 being held relative to lens means 15 of eyeshield 11.

In the embodiment of Figure 4, the magnetic mounting means for releasable magnetic mounting of eyewear element 14 to the eyeshield 11 comprises a two-component mounting means in the form of a cup 120b attached to the lens means 15 by legs 30, 31 attached to a face of lens means 15 such as by adhesion, suction or other suitable form of attachment

10 which does not affect the integrity of the lens means 15. Magnetic mounting member 120a attached to frame extension 23 is of opposed polarity to that of cup 120b such that when magnetic mounting members 120a and 120b are brought into proximity with one another, the magnetic attraction of the mounting members results in the eyewear element 14 being fixed relative to lens means 15.

15 Other magnetic mounting means arrangements are envisaged within the scope of the present invention.

In the embodiment shown in Figure 7, the protective eyewear includes a protective eyeshield 44 in the form of a visor and magnetic mounting means 43 for releasable magnetic mounting of the eyeshield 44 to a component, the component comprising an

20 attachment in the form of a tab 42 to protective safety helmet 40. The attachment in the form of tab 42 downwardly in a region to the rear of the peak of the safety helmet 40 by engagement with a rib 41 carried by safety helmet 40 in that region.

Magnetic mounting means 43 for attachment of eyeshield 44 to attachment 42 may be as described herein.

25 Prescription spectacles 14 may be magnetically mounted to eyeshield 44 in the manner described herein.

In use, prescription spectacles 14 may be easily demounted from eyewear 10 by marginally separating the outer extended frames of eyewear element 14 whereby to overcome the magnetic attraction between the magnetic members of the two component mounting means

30 12, 13, thereby causing flexing of brow rail 24 which enables the lateral separation of mounting member 12a or 120a to clear disc 12b or cup 120b as the case may be to

overcome the magnetic attraction and thereby remove the prescription spectacles 14 from their mounting on eyeshield 11.

The removal may be effected for cleaning of the eyewear element 14 and/or eyeshield 11.

To mount the eyewear element 14 the reverse operation may be performed.

- 5 The construction and arrangement provided by one embodiment of the present invention is particularly versatile and enables protective eyewear to be provided with eyewear elements such as prescription spectacles which can be easily mounted to the eyeshield or removed from the eyeshield as needed. Thus eyewear in accordance with this embodiment can be produced economically for use by all with separate prescription lenses provided only to
- 10 those workers requiring corrective spectacles. In one example of this embodiment the relatively expensive prescription lenses may be easily mounted behind a new eyeshield should any damage occur to the eyeshield.

- 15 In the arrangement shown in Figure 7 an eyewear element in the form of a visor can be magnetically mounted to protective headwear. The present invention accordingly provides in this embodiment an effective means of providing protective eyewear which does not otherwise interfere with the operation of ear protection or communication or listening devices..

- 20 Figures 8 to 11 shows protective eyewear according to a further embodiment of the present invention. Eyewear 100 includes a protective eyewear elements in the form of visor pieces 102 and 104. Eyewear 100 also includes a brow rail 106, which is hingedly connected to arms 108 and 110 by hinges 112 and 114.

Arms 108 and 110 have contact portions 116 and 118 respectively.

- 25 Brow rail 106 is attached to a nose support in the form of supporting rods 120 and nose pads 122, having air circulation means in the form of minus projection for promoting air circulation between the wearer's face and the eyewear (seen most clearly in figure 9).

Air circulation means in the form of apertures 124 and slots 126 are also provided to promote air circulation between the wearer's face and the eyewear.

- 30 To promote the comfort of the wearer and to ensure that eyepiece 100 is not displaced by movement of the wearer's cheeks such as while talking, the bottom edges 128 and 130 of visor pieces 102 and 104 respectively are concave or shaped as if cut away.

Eyepiece 100 may be provided with components for eyewear in the form of prescription lenses 140 and 142. As shown in figure 10, visor pieces 102 and 104 may be provided with magnetic mounting means in the form of magnetic cup members 144 for receiving a corresponding magnetic mounting member 146 provided on lenses 140 and 142. Magnetic 5 cups 144 are of opposite polarity to magnetic members 146 so that the magnetic attraction results in lenses 140 and 142 being releasably fixed relative to visor pieces 102 and 104. As will be appreciated, the cup members may be provided on the lenses and the magnetic members for being received in the cup members may be provided on the visor pieces. Alternatively, the point of attachment may be on the brow rail rather than the visor pieces.

10 Eyewear 100 is also provided with magnetic mounting means for carrying an optical instrument, such as optical instrument 200. Brow rail 106 is provided with a projecting magnetic member 160 and a small recess 162. Optical instrument 200 is provided with recess 202 for receiving magnetic member 160, and pin 204 for being received by recess 162. The bottom 206 of recess 202 is magnetic, and of opposite polarity to that of 15 magnetic member 160. The interengagement of member 160 with recess 202, and pin 204 with small recess 162 allows optical instrument 200 to be releasably fixed to brow rail 106 in a manner that prevents rotation of optical instrument 106 with respect to brow rail 106.

In use, as shown in Figure 12, when eyewear 100 is worn on a wearer's head 300, contact portions 116 and 118 are biased towards each other, the contact portions being displaced 20 apart from one another, in the position shown, from an undeformed position. Consequently, contact portions 116 and 118 tend to try to move towards each other. Because, towards the rear of the head, the head shape converges in a direction approaching the back of the head, if contact portions 116 and 118 were to move towards each other, they would pull the eyewear towards the wearer's face. In this way, eyewear 100 does not 25 have a tendency to slip down the wearer's nose.

In a further embodiment, brow rail 106 is itself magnetic. Components for eyewear such as lenses 140 and 142 and/or optical instrument 200 may be attached to brow rail 106 at a variety of suitable locations. Brow rail 106 may carry projections for being received in recesses in components for eyewear. Components for eyewear may carry projections for 30 being received in recesses in the brow rail 106. Brow rail 106 may have both projections and recesses depending upon the arrangement desired. Brow rail 106 may magnetically

releasably be joined to components for eyewear without use of interengaging projections and recesses.

Figure 13 shows a further embodiment of protective eyewear according to the present invention comprising a protective eyeshield 400 having a visor 402 that fits closely to the wearer's face. In use, an eyewear element 406 in the form of two prescription lenses set in a frame can be located adjacent the visor 402, held in place by virtue of the magnetic attraction between a rare earth magnet 408 on the eyewear element 406 and another magnet 404 on the visor 402. The protective eyewear is also provided with a nose piece 420 which has an extended bridge 422 and nose pads 424, the extended bridge having 5 apertures located along a vertical axis, adapted to receive the locating pins 408a, 408b. Depending on the apertures in which the pins are located, it is possible to optimize the vertical position of the nose piece so that the datum or spectral plane of the prescription lenses are located across the center of the wearer's eyes.

Figure 14 is a side view of the protective eyewear of Figure 13.

Figure 15 shows a further embodiment of protective eyewear according to the present invention comprising a protective eyeshield 450 having a visor 452 that fits closely to the wearer's face. In use, an eyewear element 456 in the form of two prescription lenses set in a frame can be located adjacent the visor 452, held in place by virtue of the magnetic attraction between a rare earth magnet 458 on the eyewear element 456 and a lens fixing 10 plate 454 on the visor 452 which is held in place by screws passing through corresponding recesses 460a and 460b. An O-ring 459 is located between the two magnets. In addition, a locating pin 457, passes through recess 461, holding the eyewear element in place and preventing rotation relative to the visor. The protective eyewear is also provided with a nose piece 470 which has an extended bridge 472 and nose pads 474, the extended bridge 15 having apertures located along a vertical axis, adapted to receive the locating pin 457. Depending on the apertures in which the locating pin 457 is located, it is possible to optimize the vertical position of the nose piece so that the datum or spectral plane of the prescription lenses are located across the center of the wearer's eyes. Also shown is a magnification device 476 having two magnifying eyepieces 476a, 476b and an extended 20 bridge having apertures located along a vertical axis, adapted to receive the locating pin 457. Again depending on the aperture in which the locating pin is located, it is possible to optimize the vertical position of the eyepieces.

Figure 16 is a side view of the protective eyewear and specialist magnifying lenses of Figure 15.

Figure 17 is an exploded, perspective view of one embodiment of eyewear 518 according to the present invention comprising a frame member 500 which in use is attached to a

5 prescription lens holder 502 by the attraction between a rare earth magnet 504 on the lens holder 502, and a tab 512 on the frame member 500. An O-ring 516 is located between the rare earth magnet 504 and the tab 512. The frame member also includes two projections 502a, 502b which can be located in corresponding apertures in the extended bridge 522 of a nose piece 520. The choice of apertures in which the pins are located, will affect the

10 position in which the nose pad 524, and the frame member 500, sit in relation to the eyes of the wearer. Replaceable eyewear elements can be held in place in relation to the frame member 500 between the tab 512, and a fixing plate 510 and located in position on the outer most eyewear element 532 by a pair of screws. In this embodiment the eyewear elements include a colored ski shield 528, a polarizing gold lens 530 and a polarizing gray

15 lens 532. The second magnet can be readily manually removed to allow one or more elements to be disengaged from the projections 518a, 518b, and replaced by one or more other eyewear elements. The frame also includes a small LED light source to provide the wearer with some illumination for reading or close work.

Figure 18 is an exploded side view of the eyewear of Figure 17.

20 Figure 19 shows a welding shield including a full opaque visor 560 for protecting the face and neck of a welder and a thick, tinted glass viewing window 562 through which the welder can observe the welding work. The window 562 has been adapted to include a small magnet 564. In use an eyewear element 566 in the form of a pair of framed prescription lenses, is held in position against the window by the magnetic attraction

25 between the magnet on the window 562 and a second magnet 569 on the eyewear element. Thus the welder does not need to have a special, prescription ground window incorporated into the welding shield at great cost, and thus limiting the use of the shield to the sole person for whose eyesight the window has been adapted.

Figure 20 shows two different embodiments of the magnetic mounting means of the

30 present invention. Figure 20a depicts an embodiment of the magnetic mounting means as described in relation to Figures 13 to 19, that is a small, disc shaped, rare earth magnet 600 and two pin-like projections 605a, 605b located in a frame 602 holding two lenses 603a,

603b. The combination of magnet and projections can be used for locating the frame in relation to an eyewear element 620. In use, the rare earth magnet is located in circular recess 621 in the eyewear element 620 and the pin-like projections 605a, 605b are located in the recesses 622a and 622b.

5 Figure 20b(i) depicts another embodiment of the magnetic mounting means comprising a small, disc shaped, rare earth magnet 610 and a rectangular projection 612. Figure 20b(ii) depicts a platform 625 on which can be mounted one or two magnifying lenses or the like. The magnifying lenses can be adjusted using rotatable knobs 626a, 626b. The platform includes a bridge piece 628 having rectangular recesses which are of complementary shape

10 10 to the projection 612 of Figure 20b(i). Thus, by inserting the projection 612 into the appropriate recess, the position of the platform can be optimized relative to the rest of the eyewear. Similarly, the nosepiece 630 of Figure 20b(iii) includes rectangular shaped recesses in a bridge piece 630. By inserting the projection 612 of Figure 20b(i) into the appropriate recess, the position of the nosepads 632, and thus the entire eyewear, can be

15 15 optimized.

Figure 20(c)(i) depicts another embodiment of the magnetic mounting means comprising a small, disc shaped rare earth magnet 650 and a rectangular projection 652. Figure 20(c)(ii) depicts a platform 655 on which can be mounted one or two magnifying lenses or the like. The magnifying lenses can be adjusted using rotatable knobs 656a, 656b. The platform

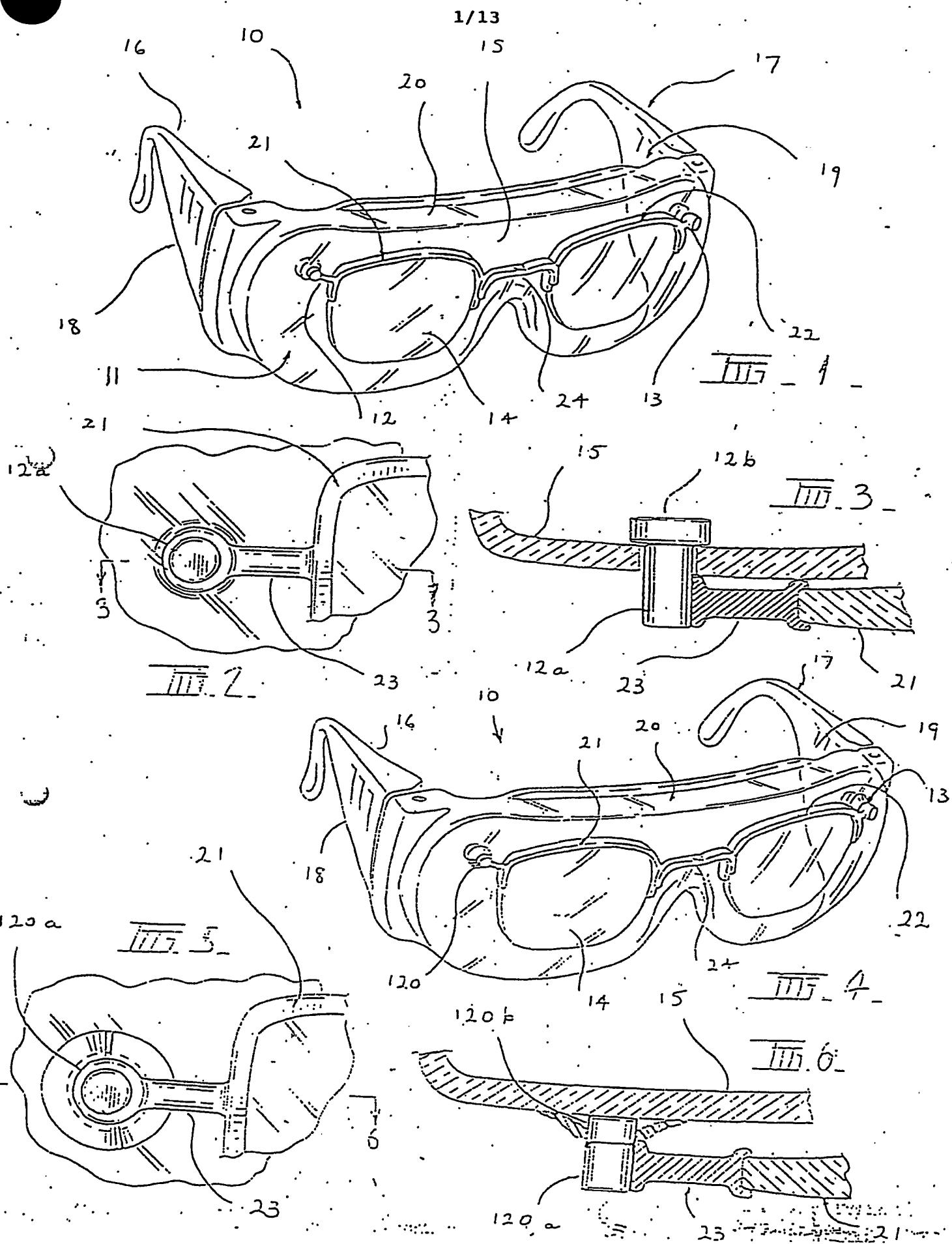
20 20 includes a magnetic bridge piece 658 having a single, slot-like recess which is of similar width to the projection 652 of Figure 20(c)(i). Thus the projection 652 can be slid up and down in the recess to optimise the position of the platform relative to the rest of the eyewear. Similarly, the nosepiece 660 of Figure 20(c)(iii) includes a slot-like recess in a magnetic bridge piece 660. By sliding the projection 652 of Figure 20(c)(i) along the

25 25 slot-like recess the position of the nosepad 662, and thus the entire eyewear, can be optimized. Use of a slot-like recess is particularly effective if it is used in combination with a very strong rare earth magnet, and the slot is located in metal that is strongly attracted to the metal so that the projection is firmly held in position in the recess.

Whilst it has been convenient to describe the present invention in relation to particularly preferred embodiments, it is to be appreciated that other constructions and arrangements are considered as falling within the scope of the invention. Various modifications, alterations, variations and/or additions to the constructions and arrangements described
5 herein are considered as falling within the scope of the present invention.

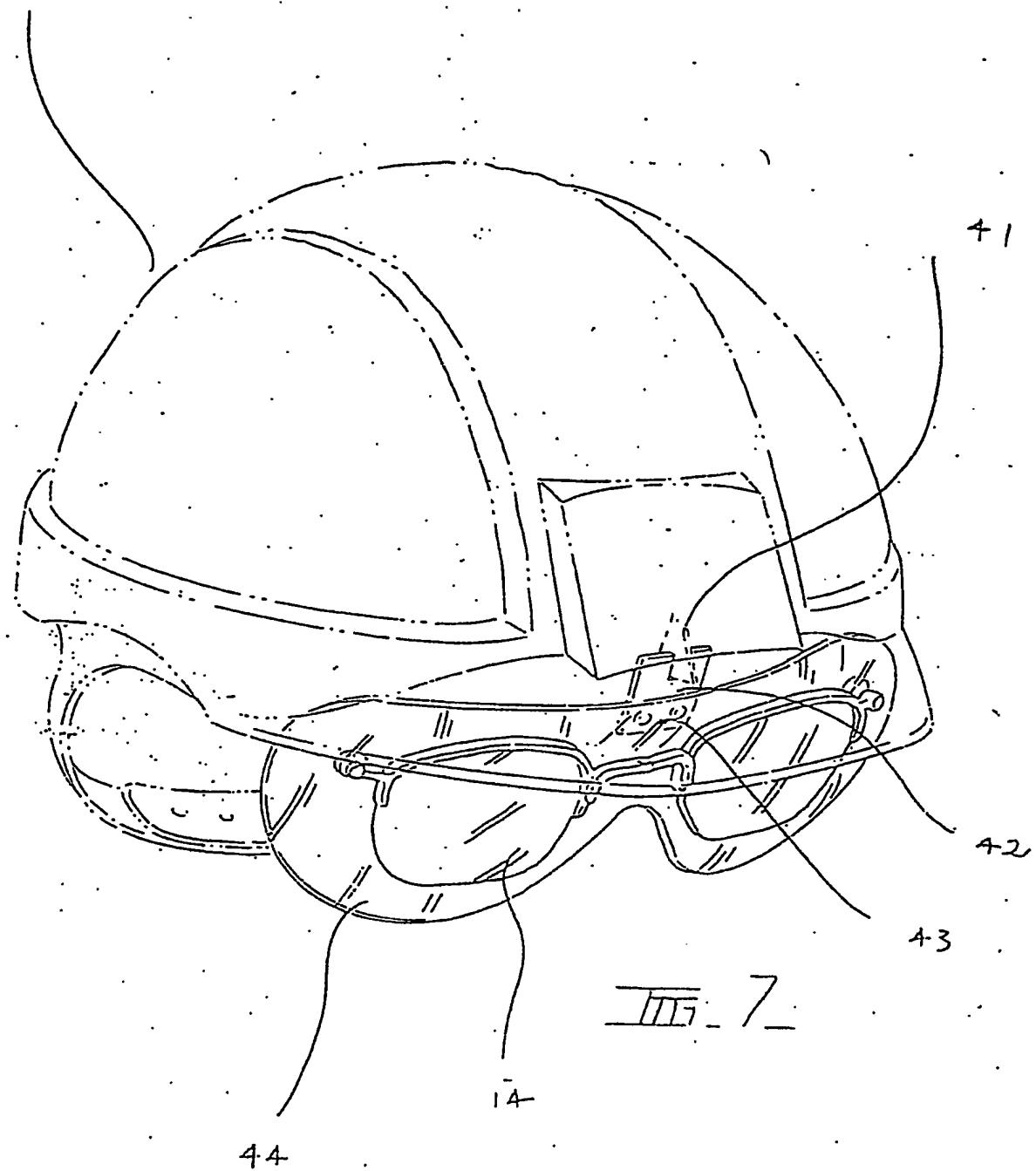
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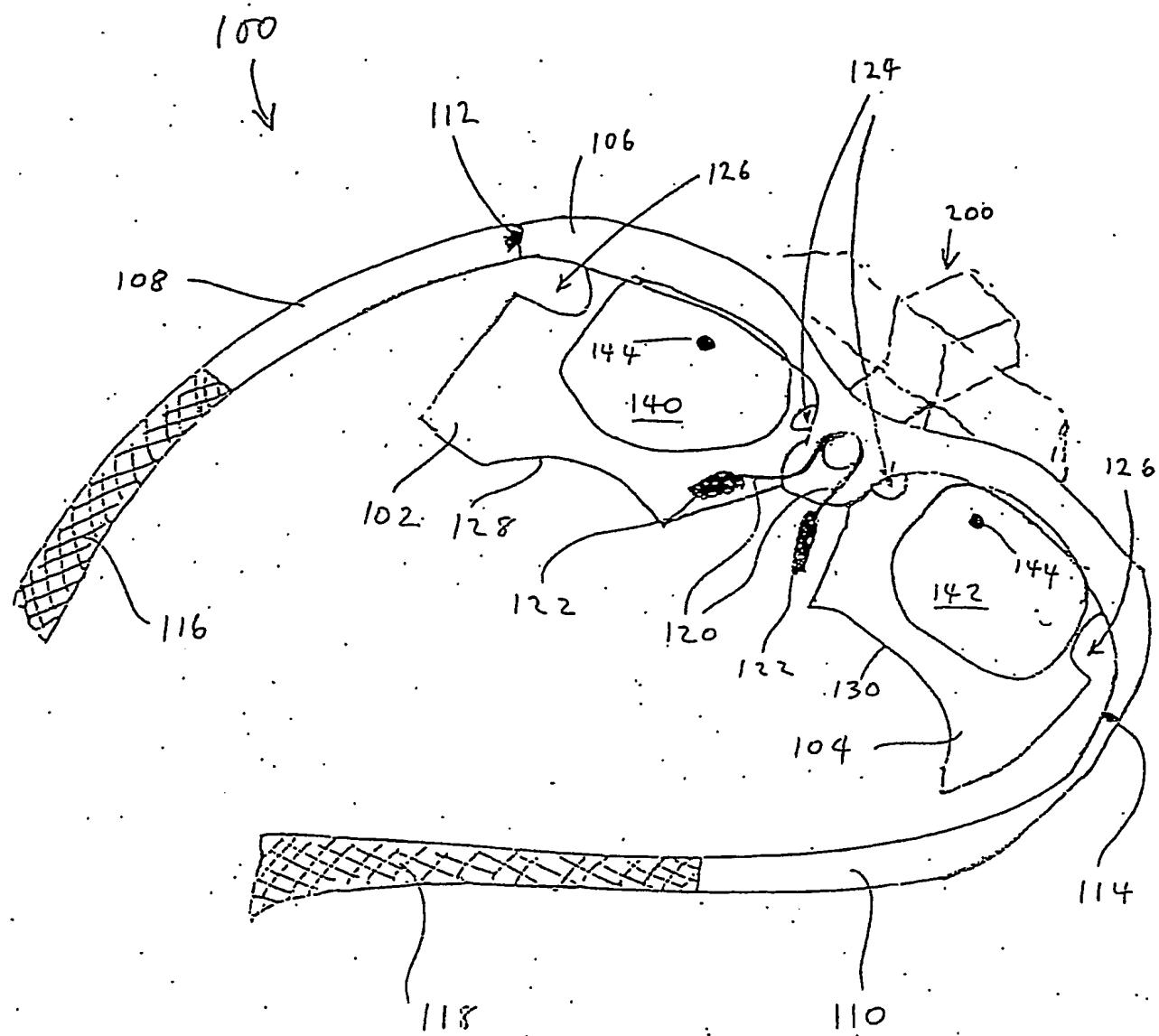


Figure 8

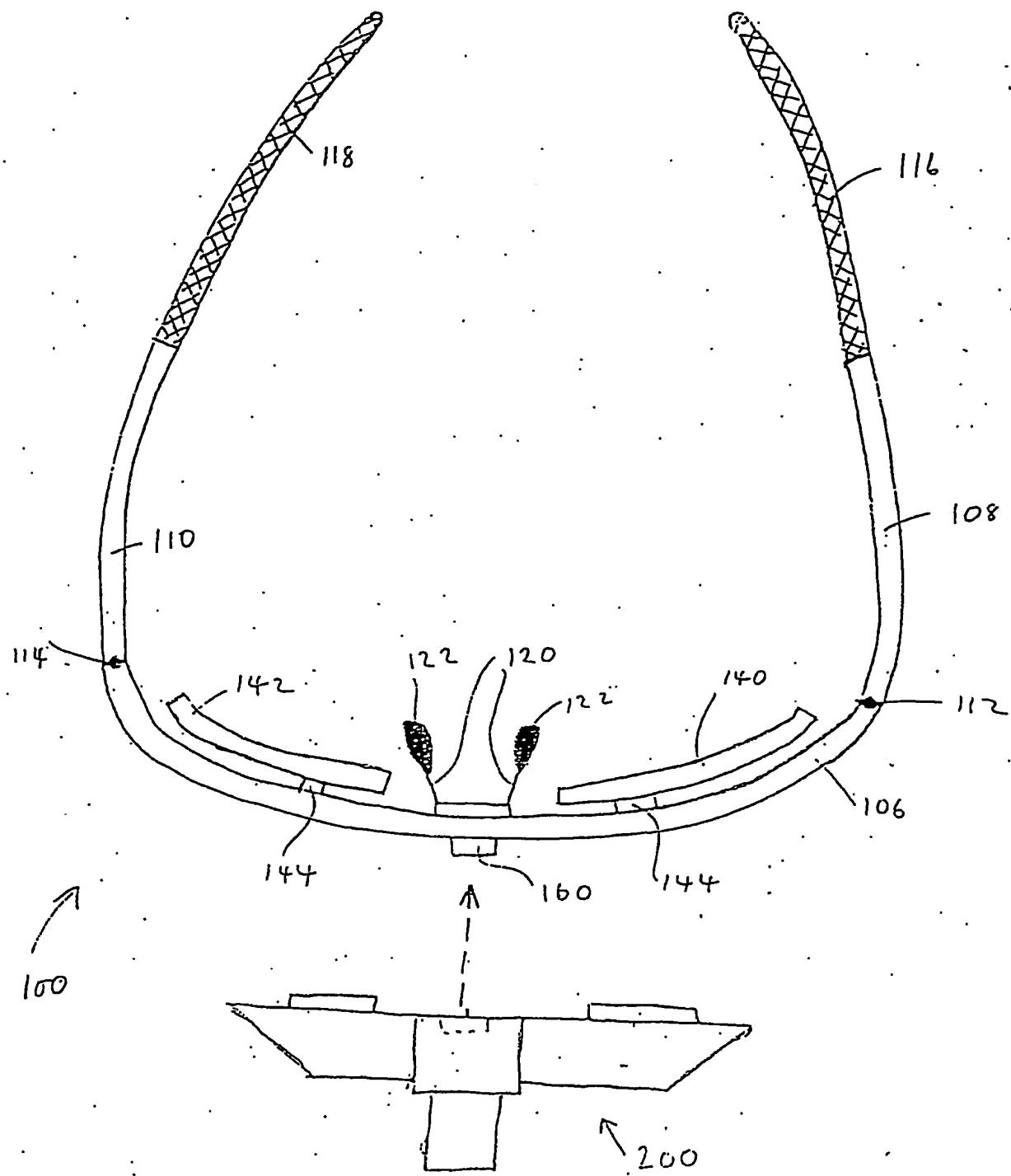


Figure 9

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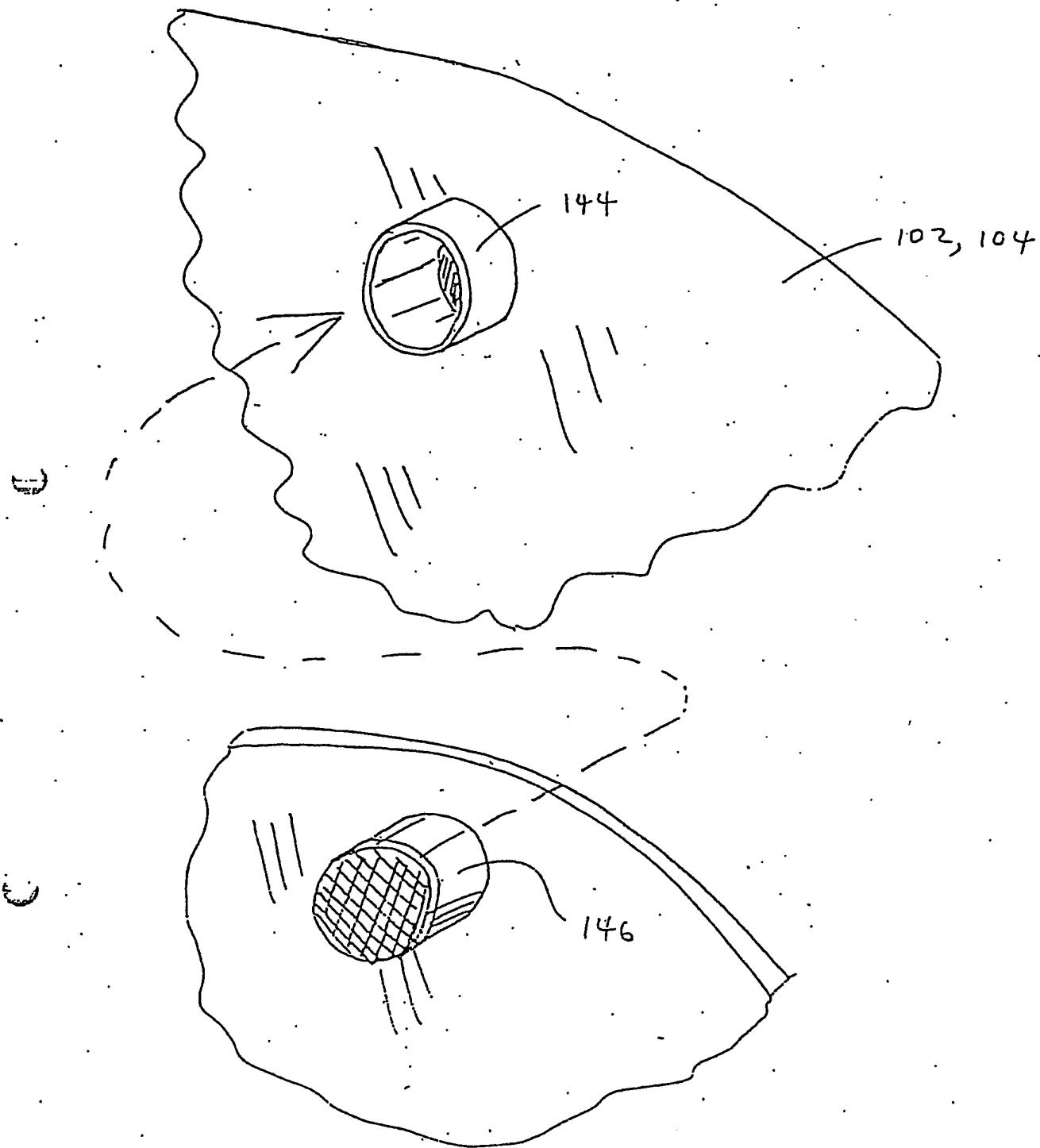
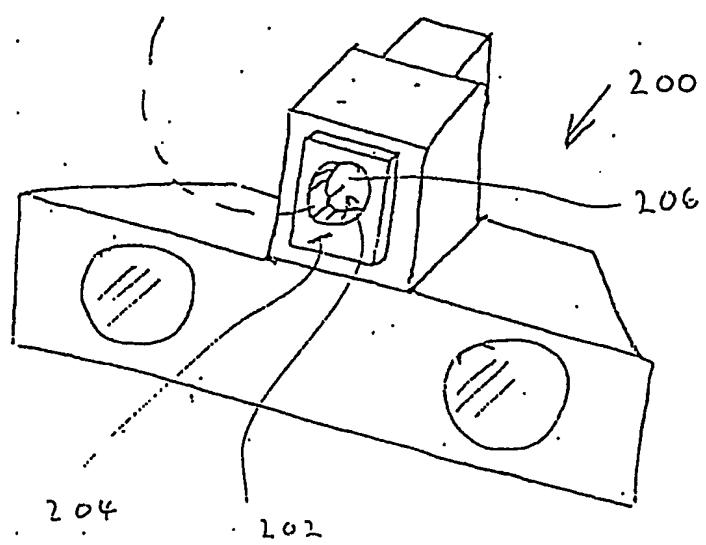
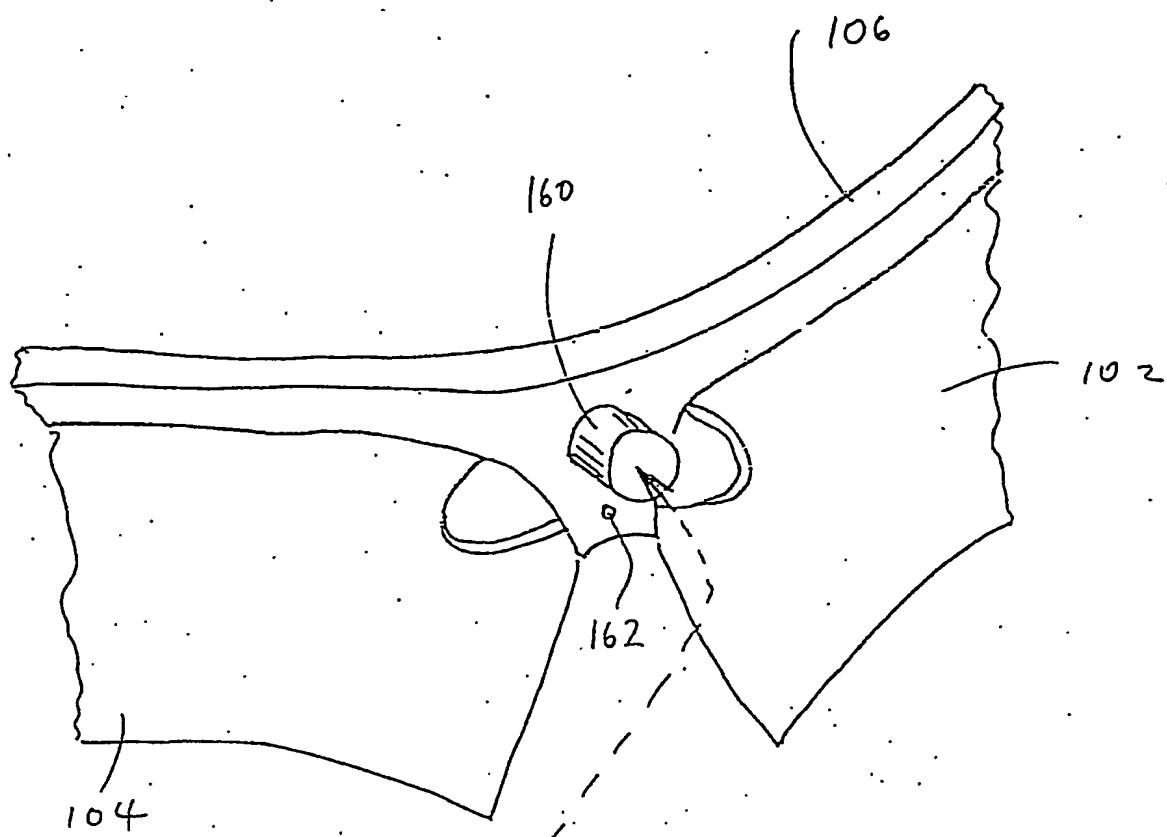


Figure 10

Figure 11



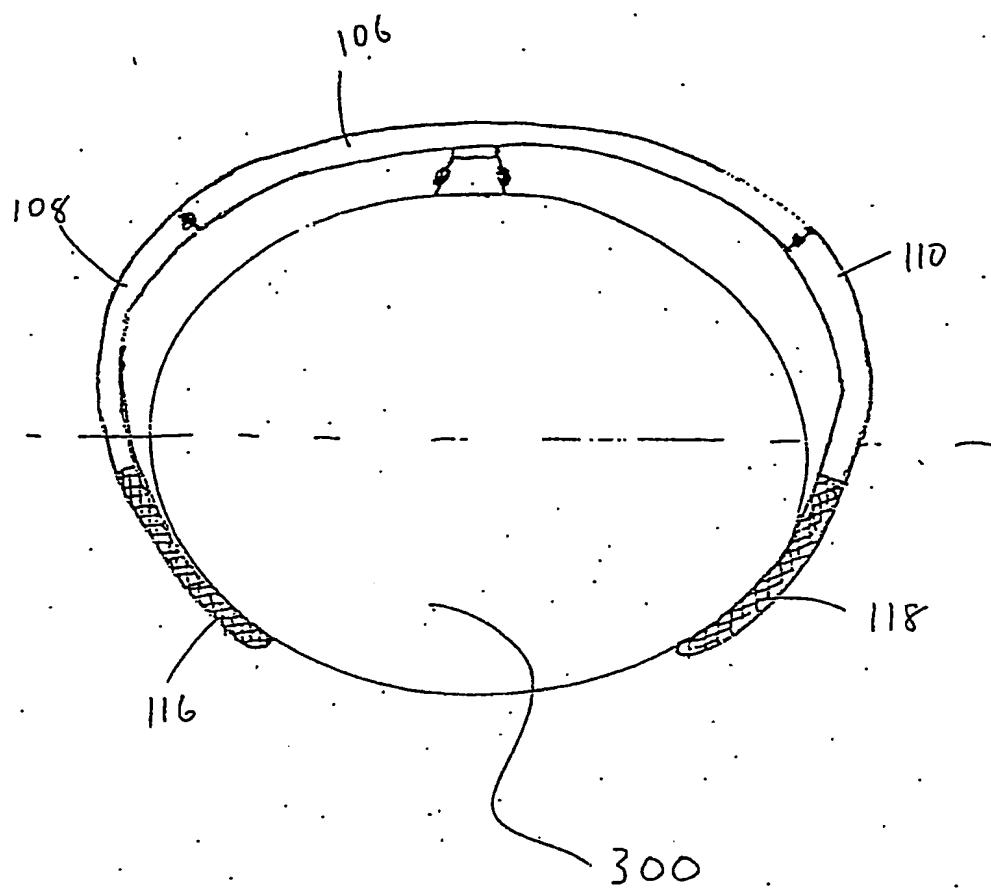


Figure 12

C - Figure 13

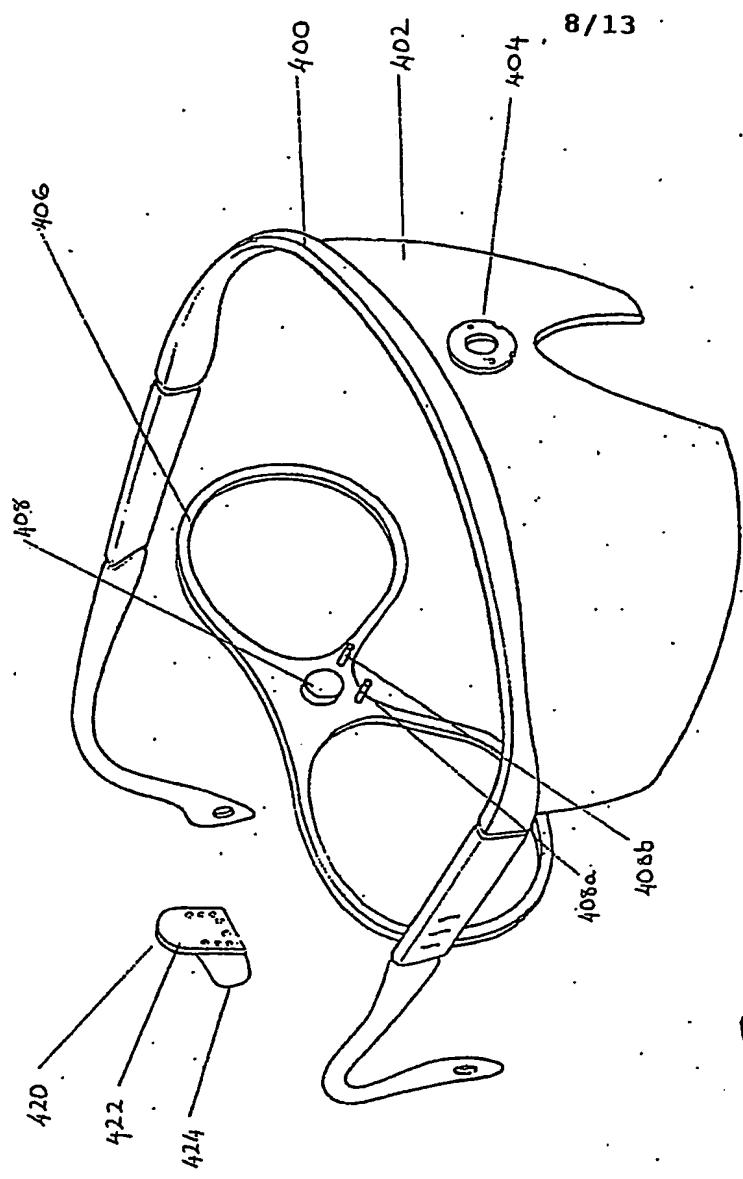
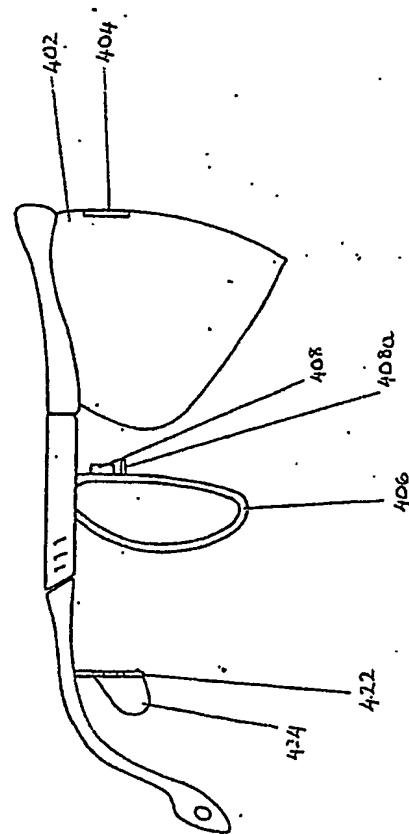


Figure 14



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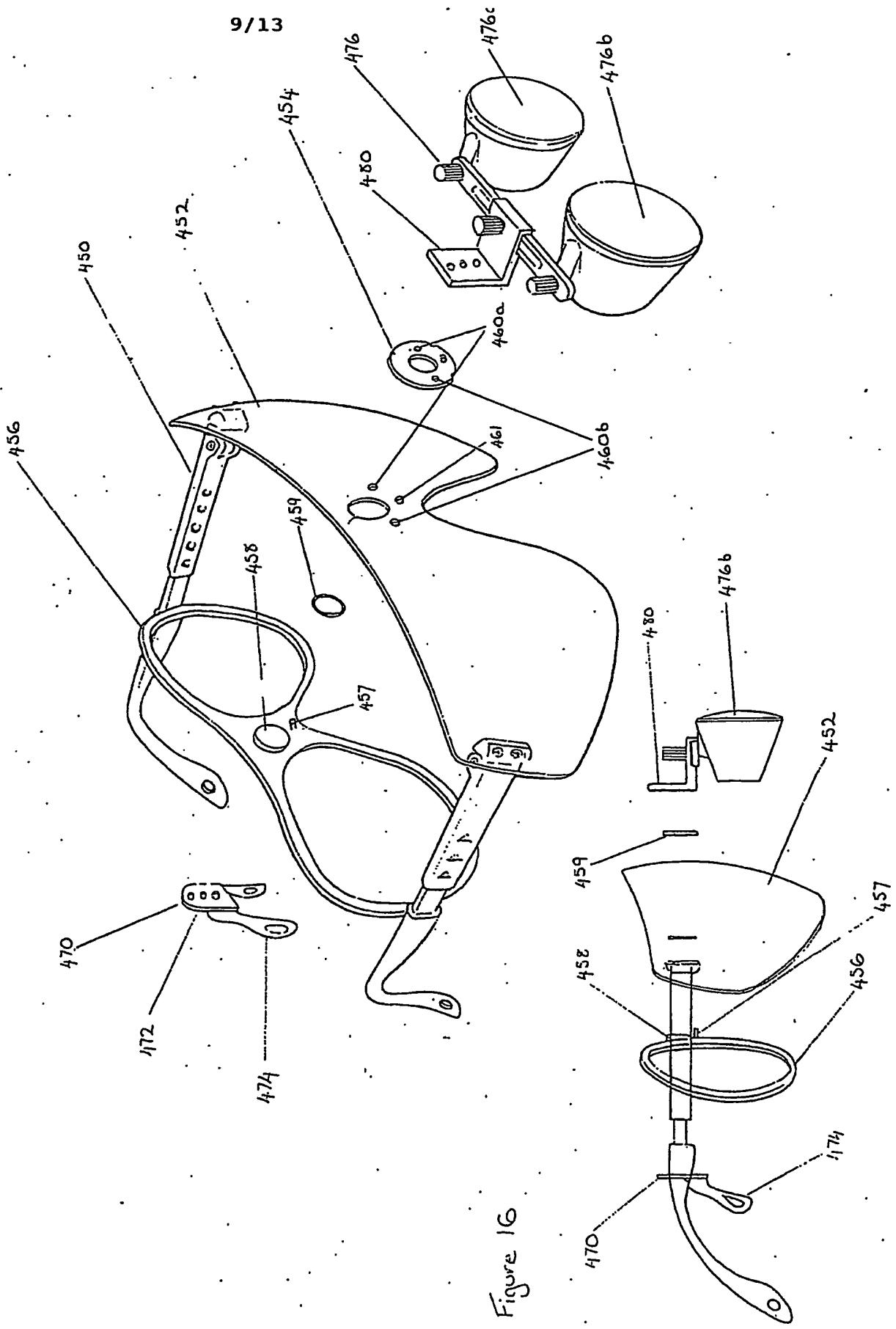


Figure 17

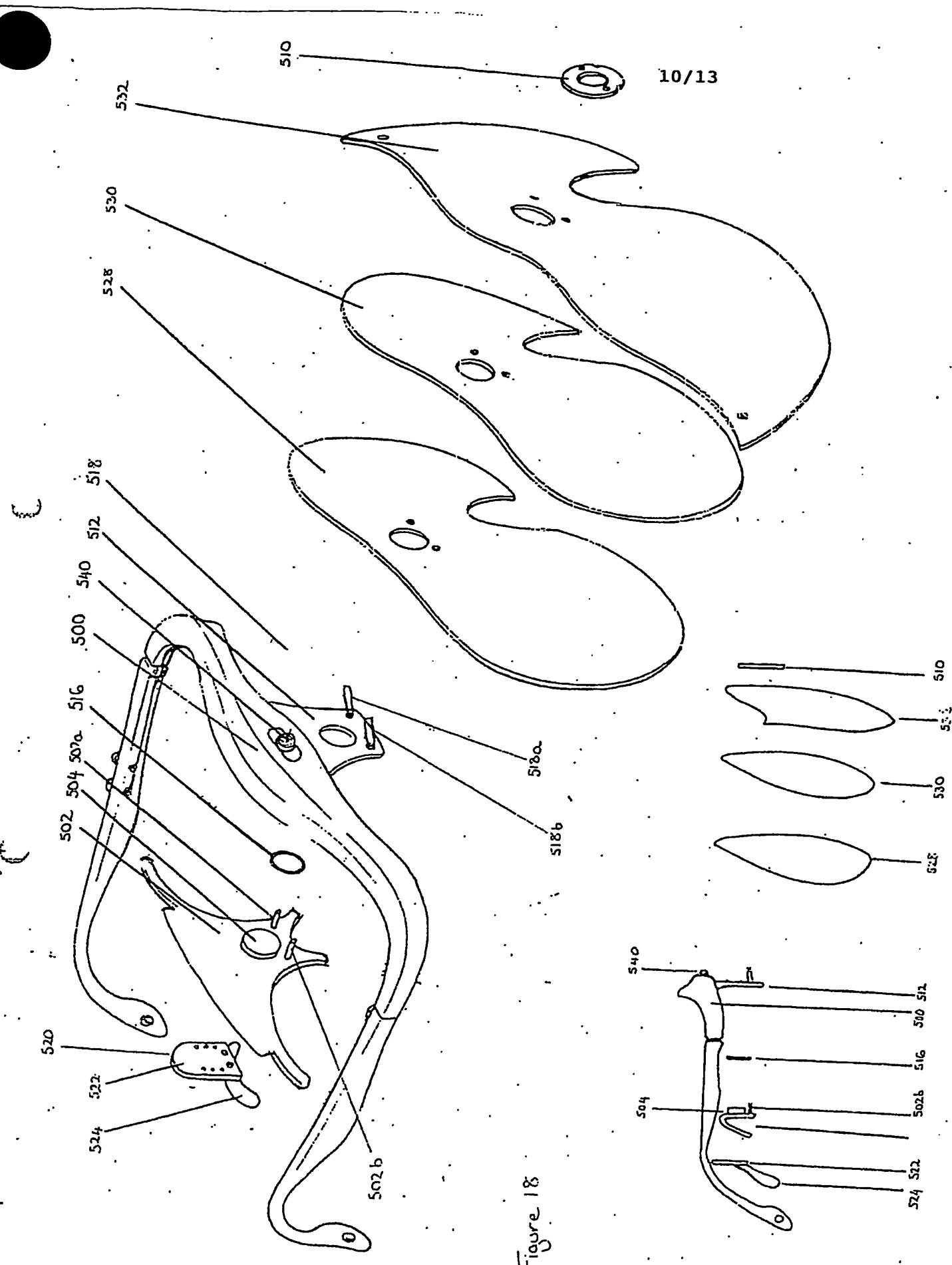
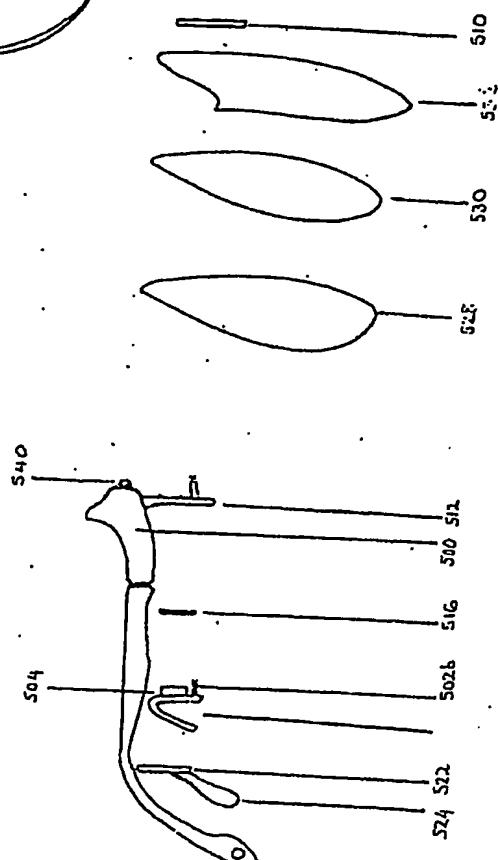


Figure 18



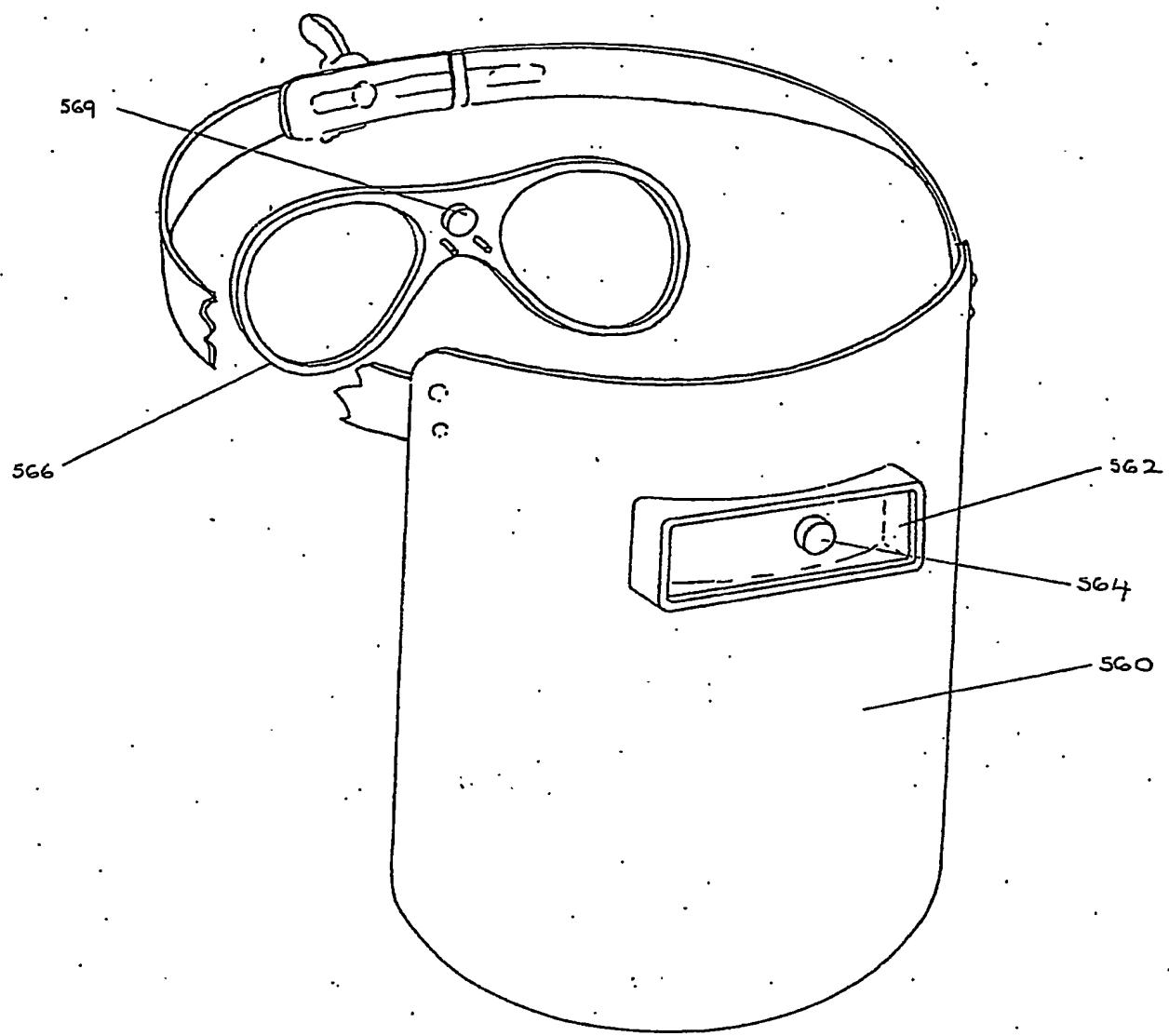


Figure 19

Figure 20a

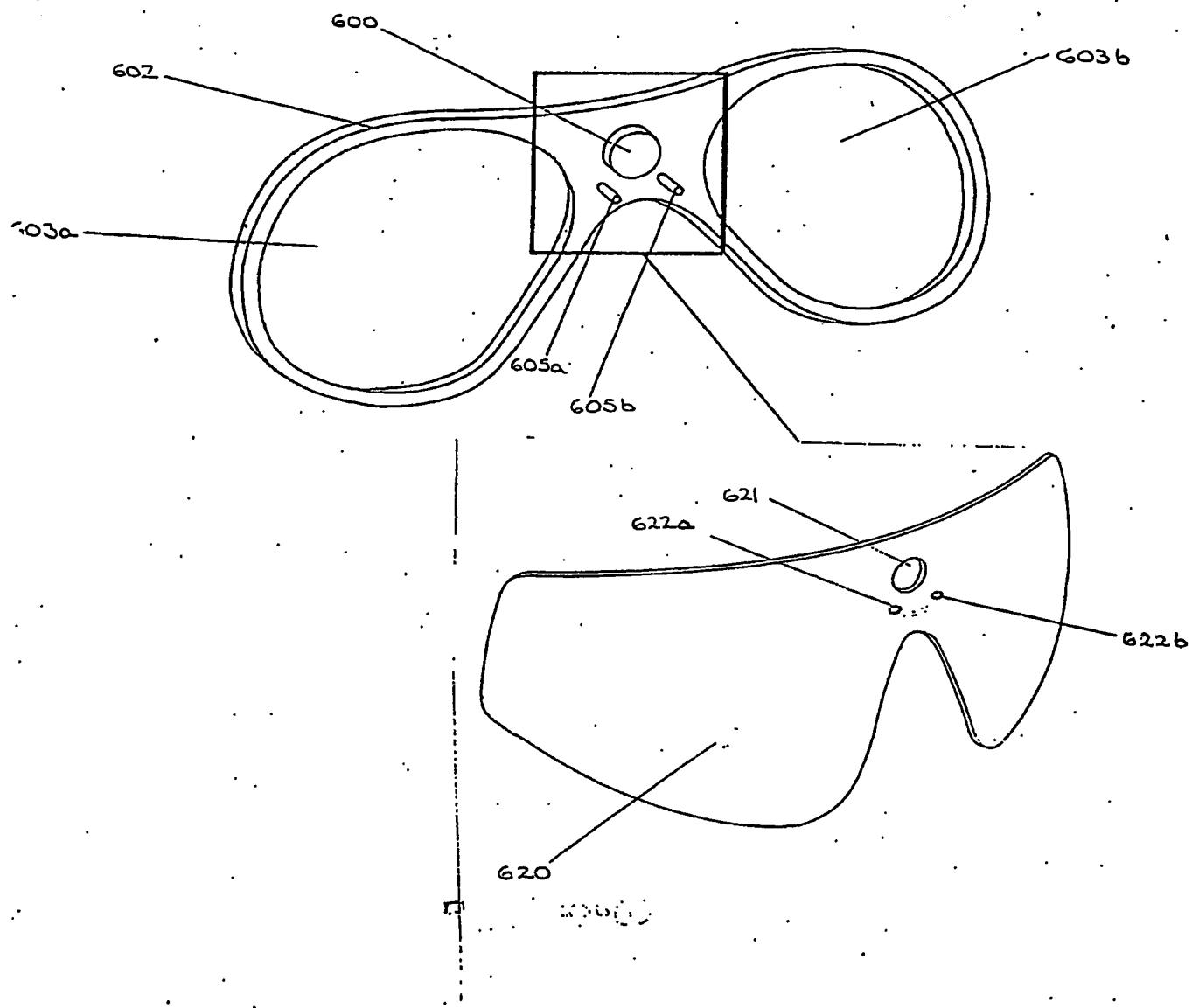




Figure 20c(i)

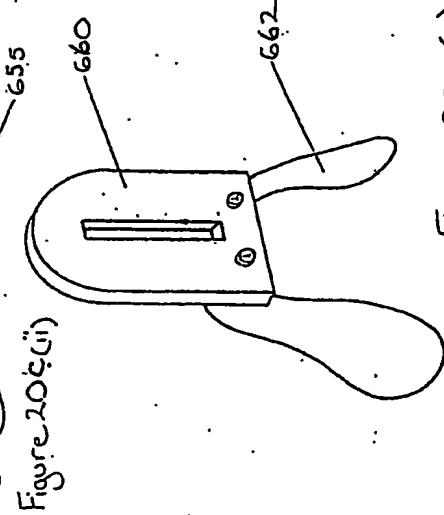
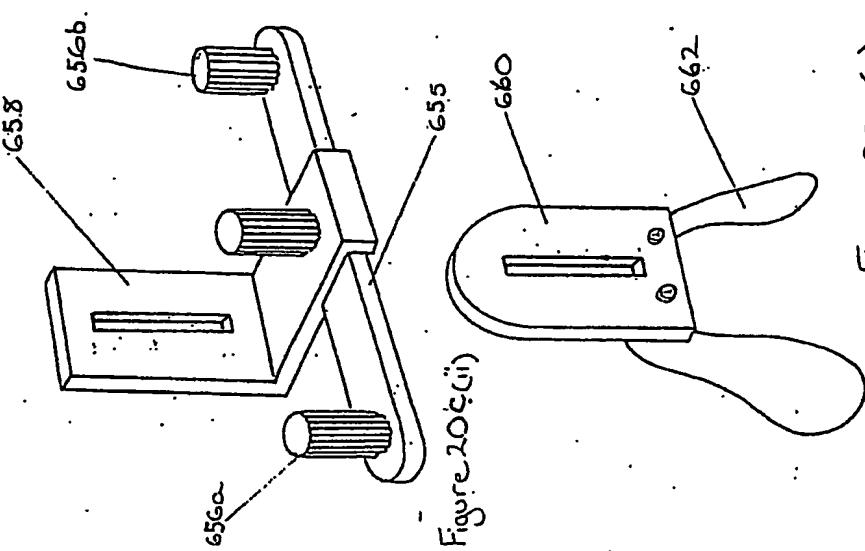


Figure 20c(iii)

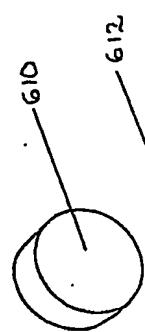


Figure 20b(i)

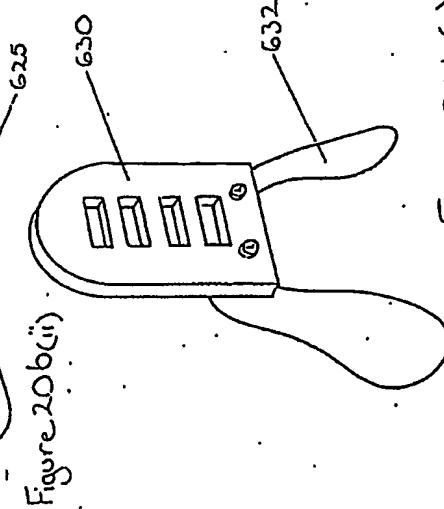
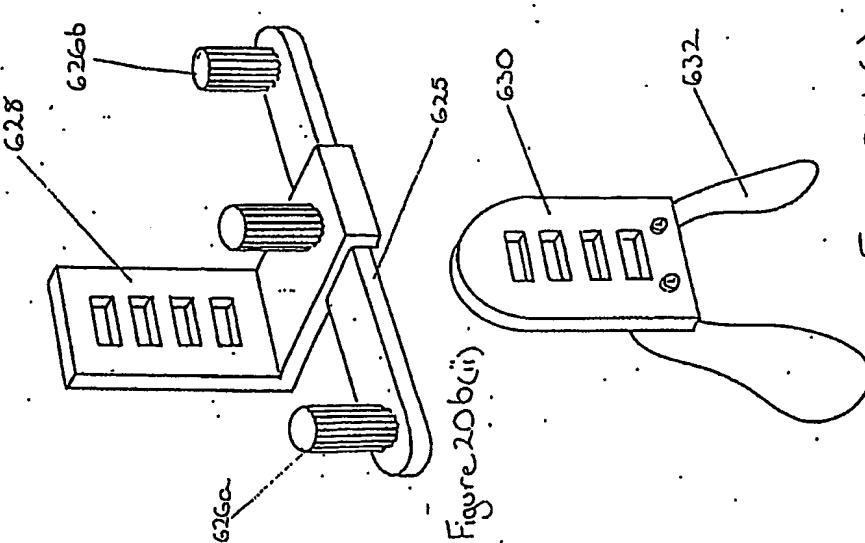


Figure 20b(iii)

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